

6/12/2001
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U. S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

8545 '01 JUN 15 P1 55

Re. Docket # 98P-0151/CP1

To Whom it May Concern;

The purpose of this communication is to urge you to grant petition 98P-0151/CP1 which will prohibit the slaughter of downed animals. As a veterinarian, I can see only benefits to this move. The animals too sick or ill to remain standing in order that they be processed will be spared suffering and (sometimes) cruelty at the hands of impatient meat processing plant workers. American consumers will be spared the potential health risks of ingesting meat products that could possibly have originated from animals that may be afflicted with BSE or whose flesh may have been exposed to very dangerous bacterial contamination during processing.

Downer animals should be strictly prohibited from entering the human food chain. These animals comprise a tiny percentage of the total number of animals slaughtered each year in American meat processing plants and doing so will cause no undue economic hardship for them. Furthermore, I have been informed that industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for such downer animals will provide an incentive to the industry to prevent them in the first place.

I greatly appreciate the time that you have taken to read this letter and will appreciate your consideration of its contents.

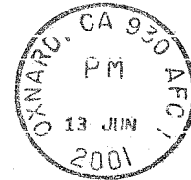
Sincerely,

Richard W. Woerpel D.V.M.

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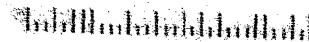
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